



Firewise NEWS

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NWCG Wildland/Urban
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USDA Forest Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
US Fish & Wildlife Service
National Park Service

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

International Association of
Fire Chiefs

National Emergency
Management Association

National Fire
Protection Association

U.S. Fire Administration

State Forestry Organizations

HI-COUNTRY ESTATES RESIDENTS RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR EFFORTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK IN UTAH

For Immediate Release: November 6, 2007

QUINCY, Mass. – Two Hi-Country estates residents are taking the lead to ensure their community and others in Utah don't suffer the same losses as we saw in Southern California last week.

Last week's fires in Southern California are a painful reminder of the importance of wildfire preparedness. Residents who take simple "Firewise" steps around their homes to clear vegetation and create defensible space will reduce their vulnerability from the threat of wildfire.

Randy and Jean Crane have done just that. They have dedicated numerous hours to mobilizing their own community and the state of Utah toward Firewise core principles of prevention and mitigation. Recently wildfire has taken a toll on the communities of Southern California and it is important to look to leaders like the Cranes to help teach and implement tactics to reduce the loss of life and structures in a wildfire. The Crane's efforts to educate property owners on prevention and mitigation principles have been an important part of not only the Hi-Country Estates Wildfire Council, but the entire state of Utah with the Utah Living with Fire Committee. Their hard work has earned them national recognition from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's (NWCG) Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Working Team with a Firewise Leadership Award.

The Firewise Leadership Awards are designed to honor individuals and organizations conducting wildland fire mitigation activities in residential developments in the wildland/urban interface. Winners were selected based on their efforts on the local, state, and regional level. Randy and Jean Crane have been recognized for their dedication, leadership, and influence of the Firewise mission and principles throughout the state of Utah.

"The Crane's are selfless in their work to educate their own local community of Hi-Country Estates and other Utah communities," said Erin Darboven,

(more)

In addition to member agencies and organizations, the National WUI Fire Program functions in cooperation with other NWCG Working Teams, the National Fire Plan, and related programs.

Fire Education and Mitigation Specialist. “The Crane’s have volunteered countless hours toward staffing information booths, hosting agency visits, providing educational services for neighboring communities, and even using their own property for how-to demonstrations. They are a true inspiration to the Firewise cause.”

“Leadership Award winners serve as a perfect example of how communities and homeowners can work together to prepare for the threat of wildfire and their work deserves recognition,” said Alan Dozier, chair of the NWCG’s Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Working Team. “What makes Firewise work are these individual “spark plugs” that are passionate about the Firewise mission and who are leading the way to getting the work done.”

In addition to recognizing the winners, the Firewise Leadership Awards program helps program administrators capture success stories and share best practices across the country, between all types of interests – public, private, and tribal. This year, more than 30 individuals and organizations from across the country were nominated for their outstanding efforts.

Communities and residents interested in learning more about the Firewise Communities program may visit www.firewise.org.

The national Firewise Communities program is an interagency program designed to encourage local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from the risk of wildfire. The Firewise Communities program is sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s Wildland/Urban Interface Working Team, a consortium of wildland fire agencies that includes the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Emergency Management Association, the US Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Fire Protection Association, and state forestry organizations. For more information, visit www.firewise.org.

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